

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: September 28, 2021  
Time: 1:30pam  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie and Board of Health Chairman Chuck Ogden.

Others present via zoom: Mary McGurn, Fred Gordan, Eileen Vining, Robert Sandor, Juliette Haas, David Seligman, Peg McDonough, Steve Cohen.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes were accepted with minor edits.

COVID-19:

The Board still had questions in regards to the Board of Health mask directive. The majority of the Board felt that mask should be required at the Transfer Station. Clarification is still needed on crowded outdoor events.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously, with the support of the Housing Committee, to appoint Bruce Kafenbaum to the Housing Authority. The Board asked that the Housing Committee add it's list of action steps in collaboration with the Planning Board in regards to the ADU and other bylaw issues in creating a draft housing agreement. There is no report from S&K Design after their two days of walking the town hall site. Well limitations are being looked at.

The Board will not sign the agreement for a cell coverage survey.

The Board voted unanimously, with the support of some members of the Bylaw Review Committee, to appoint Robert Sandor to the Bylaw Review Committee.

As there seems to be no proposed bylaw amendments coming from the Planning Board, and any other items are not emergentt, the Board cancelled plans for a fall Special Town Meeting.

The Board voted unanimously to not allow trick or treating in Egremont again this year due to COVID-19 concerns. This decision was endorsed by the Board of Health.

The Board agreed not to participate in the National Grid Street Light Upgrade program. The lights along Route 23/41 will be switched out during the reconstruction project.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The French Park Committee awaits the proposal from Native Habitat Restoration for phase 2 of the invasive plants removal project.

Vice-Chairman Vermeulen reported that at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Municipal Planning Organization re-elected Jim Lovejoy was re-elected as the delegate for the South Berkshire group with Renee Wood being elected as the alternate. Renee Wood is willing to give the position up to George McGurn if he wants it.

Mount Washington Road is on track for program funding from the TIP program.

#### GRANTS:

The Board asked Dave Seligman to propose some names for a working group for updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Selectboard Chair George McGurn will ask Ben Barrett if he is interested. Dave will meet with Office Administrator Mary Brazie to review the process for hiring a consultant and paying invoices.

Peg McDonough updated the Board and continues to connect with Town Boards regarding American Recovery Act funding. The public input meeting is scheduled for October 19 at 6pm. There is a short survey in the newsletter asking for public input suggestions. The Board agreed that all spending approval had to be made by the Selectboard.

Peg McDonough has been trying to follow up on the USDA Food Storage grant. It was suggested that Greenagers be consulted as they may have space available and may already be participating in such a program.

(There was an internet outage that lasted about a minute and a half at 3:06pm.)

The Board unanimously approved the final submission for the Air Sensor grant program by removing Catamount and adding the Water Plant instead. There is some concern that the town may not be able to fund the installation at Greenagers.

#### FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The Berkshire Health Alliance nurse did not attend the most recent SAFE meeting as she thought it was in-person so went to the location. Vice-Chair Lucinda Vermeulen reported that agencies are focusing on elder abuse and fraud protection.

The Technology Team is still working with Fiber Connect on an appropriate low income subsidy program. Some movement is being made on Brookvale/Hilltop Road at least with getting the fiber to the correct side of the road. The construction of the headend at French Park will begin soon. Equipment for the wi-fi at the park is on back order.

The engineer for the Route 23/41 reconstruction project has requested two letters from the town. One a commitment to maintain the plants in the median at the intersection of Route 41. More details will be gotten on the size and the type of plants preferred. The Egremont Garden

Club had requested this and agreed to maintain but has not committed yet. Vice-Chairman Lucinda Vermeulen will follow up with the Garden Club and Chairman George McGurn will ask Greenagers if they could help.

The other letter is to confirm that the town's standard on water line replacement is the zinc lined water pipes. The Water Department has reported that this is an upgrade not the current standard. The Board will discuss this further with the Water Department.

#### SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The next meeting will be October 12 at 10:00am, with a 9:30 Collective Bargaining Strategy Session.

The All-Boards meeting was scheduled for November 2 at 5:30pm via zoom.

The Board will meet with representatives from the Mount Washington Selectboard and Finance Committee early in November to discuss the fire services fee being assessed.

Vice-Chairman Lucinda Vermeulen plans to attend the Thursday evening Berkshire Regional Planning Commission zoom meeting. Chairman George McGurn plans to attend the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association annual zoom meeting on Thursday evening.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.22/sept28

*The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.*